DC

37

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BRAGA
BELLAIRE

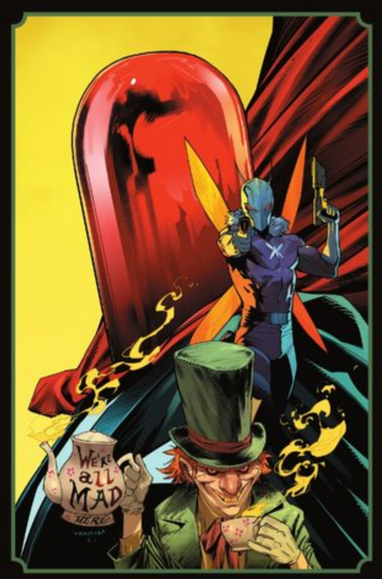
FEAR STATE

CATWOMAN™

IVY REBORN?!

A 100-PAGE PRESTIGE FORMAT SPECIAL

CELEBRATING THE GREATEST ROGUES GALLERY IN POP CULTURE!



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CHRISTIAN WARD

GABRIEL HERNÁNDEZ WALTA

AND MORE

NOVEMBER

IT'S GOOD TO BE BAD!

GOTHAM CITY VILLAINS ANNIVERSARY GIANT

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ALLEYTOWN, GOTHAM.

THEY'RE LEAVING.

SOMETHING'S CHANGED.

THEY'RE CHASING AFTER SOMEONE ELSE.

GOOD THING, TOO =URRGH=.

I'M ALL FOR BASIL'S SPEECHES =MMMH=...

"...BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW MUCH LONGER WE **OR** THIS TOWN CAN HOLD OUT."

=NNF= JUST A LITTLE LONGER, *HARLEY.*

WE HOLD OUT UNTIL THE TRANSPORT IS AT THE DOCKS AND EVERYTHING WILL FALL INTO PLACE.

THAT'S GREAT, CAT, BUT *GARDENER* BEAT UP THE FLICKERING LADY AND THERE'S *TWO* OF THEM NOW AND THEY'VE GOT DIFFERENT POWERS!

I DON'T THINK THAT'S HOW KNOCKING SOMEONE OUT IS SUPPOSED TO WORK!

THE CATWOMAN IS RIGHT. THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR RIGHT NOW IS TO HOLD THEM OFF.

FLKR

AND HOPE THAT IT'LL BUY US ALL A LITTLE--*HNG*--MORE TIME.

PLINK

WE CAN'T LET HER GO AFTER IVY AND THE TRANSPORT. WE'VE GOT TO KEEP HER HERE.

WE'RE GOING TO NEED A LOT MORE THAN TIME AND A *PLAN B* ON OUR HANDS, LADIES.

"SO, PRAY THAT WE'VE GOT SOME GOOD LUCK HEADING OUR WAY."

=SIGH= IT'S NOT LOOKING GOOD.

THE TOWN IS ON ITS LAST LEGS.

AND I CAN STILL HEAR THE FIGHTING OVER BY THE TERMINAL BUILDING.

I KNOW THIS IS WHAT HEROES DO. BUT WE'RE JUST *PEOPLE.*

IF ANYONE'S OUT THERE LISTENING... ALLEYTOWN COULD USE A LITTLE HELP.

=KHSSSSSSSSSSS=

I KNOW [illegible] SEEM LIKE YOU'RE OUT [illegible] ALL ALONE. BUT I HEAR [illegible]

MESSAGE RECEIVED, ALLEYTOWN.

"HANG TIGHT.

"HELP [illegible] ON THE WAY."

BILLY! COME ON, KID...TALK TO ME!

A LITTLE BUSY HERE, NYGMA!

I THINK I MIGHT HAVE HALF THE MAGISTRATE ON MY TAIL. YOU SURE THIS IS WORKING?

TRUST ME, MOST OF THEM ARE CHASING WILD GEESE ALL THROUGH GOTHAM. YOU CAN DO IT, KID.

JUST A LITTLE FARTHER TO THE DOCKS. ONCE YOU'RE THERE, I'VE GOT A WELCOMING PARTY WAITING.

HOW'S *UHH...IVY* DOING IN THE BACK?

SHE'S OKAY...A LITTLE NERVOUS, LIKE ALL OF US. BUT SKIDMARK'S KEEPING HER COMPANY.

THIS WELCOMING PARTY YOU'VE GOT? THEY BETTER KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING.

TELL THEM I'M COMING IN HOT!

"THEY'RE ALL COOL CUSTOMERS, BILLY. I'LL MAKE SURE THEY'RE ALL READY AND WAITING."

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

BRAKKA BRAKKA

IVY, OH IVY, OPEN YOUR DOOR.

OR I'LL HUFF AND I'LL PUFF...

AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO HARM A HAIR ON THE LITTLE KIDDIE'S CHINNY CHIN CHINS NOW, WOULD YOU?

KREEK

THWOOM

THAT SHOULD BUY US SOME TIME.

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! SHE'LL EVENTUALLY FIND HER WAY HERE. WE CAN'T KEEP GOING LIKE THIS.

EVERY TIME WE TAKE THEM OUT--MORE SHOW UP!

OOOOH, CAT. I AIN'T DOIN' SO GOOD.

I THOUGHT I WAS SEEIN' DOUBLE!

CATWOMAN...

OH, CAAAAAT.

NYGMA?

RIDDLE ME *THIS*, CATWOMAN.

WHAT'S GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THE SERVER, NEVER ENJOYED BY THE SERVED, AND ALWAYS BEST WHEN CHILLED?

GIVE UP?

REVENGE, CATWOMAN.

EVERYTHING YOU BUILT. THIS ALLEYTOWN YOU MADE YOURSELF THE QUEEN OF. ALL THOSE YOU SAVED AND ALL THOSE CHAINS YOU BROKE.

YOU BUILT IT *ALL* OFF OF WHAT YOU *STOLE* FROM ME AND THE PENGUIN, AND NOW I'M TAKING IT ALL BACK.

"PENGUIN HAS IVY NOW. THE DOCKS WILL BE OURS TO CONTROL AND WE'LL HAVE THE ONLY PIECE OF EVIDENCE THAT'S LIKELY TO RUIN *SIMON SAINT.* WE'LL HAVE LEVERAGE.

"I CONTROL *ALL* OF ALLEYTOWN-- MY EYES AND EARS LOOPED IN TO EVERY BIT OF TECH HERE. THANKS TO THE NETWORK THE STRAYS AND I SET UP.

"ONCE THE MAGISTRATE HAVE REMOVED YOU AND THE REST OF THE VERMIN FROM THIS PLACE...

"...THE PENGUIN AND I WILL CONTROL ALLEYTOWN AND ALL ITS SECRET WAYS.

YOUR FRIENDS HAVE DIED. THE STRAYS ARE IN PERIL. YOUR SISTER'S GONE AND YOU'RE ALL ALONE IN THIS DUMP.

TELL ME, CATWOMAN, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO WATCH EVERYTHING YOU'VE BUILT SLIP AWAY LIKE SAND FROM YOUR FINGERS?

IT'S TIME, SELINA... EVERYONE'S IN PLACE...

I EVER TELL YOU, NYGMA? BACK WHEN I WAS JUST A ROOKIE THIEF, A LONG-CON BIG-TIMER NAMED FRANK BAZ ONCE SAID TO ME...*

"EVERY GOOD CON DEPENDS ON THE COMPLICITY OF YOUR MARK, SELINA.

"YOUR MARK SHOWS SOME MEASURE OF GROWTH OR CHANGE? SOME INCLINATION TO MAKE THE BETTER CHOICE?

...THE CON WILL NEVER WORK."

BUT *YOU?*

YOU ARE PREDICTABLE, IF NOTHING ELSE, EDWARD.

*SEE CATWOMAN #32 --JESS

"I SUSPECTED YOU LEAKED IVY'S WHEREABOUTS TO THE MAGISTRATE.

"I KNEW YOU'D GO AFTER HER, THEN.

"IN FACT, I COUNTED ON IT."

"I'M AFRAID THE IVY THAT COBBLEPOT THINKS HE'S GETTING IS NOT THE IVY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

"AND I'VE GOT MY OWN INTREPID BAND OF PARTY-CRASHERS OUT ON THE DOCKS."

"I MUST THANK YOU THOUGH. MY PLAN WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED WITHOUT YOU BEING YOU, NYGMA.

N-NOW... BASIL. YOU KNOW ME!

NONE OF THIS IS PERSONAL! IT'S JUST B-B-BUSINESS!

"THANKS TO YOUR EFFORTS, THE MAGISTRATE ARE ALL HEADED TOWARD THE DOCKS.

"THEY'LL FIND COBBLEPOT AND CREW NEATLY WRAPPED WHEN THEY GET THERE.

"AND, BEING THE UTTER COWARD YOU ARE, *YOU'RE* PROBABLY ALREADY ON THE RUN BUT STILL CONNECTED TO THE ALLEYTOWN NETWORK.

"I'D PICK UP THE PACE IF I WERE YOU. I IMAGINE THE MAGISTRATE ARE TRACKING DOWN WHOEVER TAPPED INTO THEIR SYSTEM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

"THAT LEAVES THE GROVE STREET STATION RELATIVELY SAFE FOR A WHILE.

"WE *NEVER MOVED* IVY FROM HERE, YOU SEE?"

"HARLEY AND GARDENER WILL GET HER OUT OF HERE SAFELY.

RED!

SPARKLES AND STOCKINGS! PIGTAILS AND PUDDIN'S! I KNOW YOU, HARLEQUIN.

"AND I TRUST HARLEY TO KEEP HER SAFE AFTER."

I KNOW-- :MMF:

THAT JUST LEAVES *ME*, EDWARD.

AND YOU WERE *WRONG* ABOUT ME. NONE OF WHAT I BUILT HAS SLIPPED THROUGH MY FINGERS.

BECAUSE I KNEW I HAD TO LET ALL OF IT GO. IT WAS NEVER ABOUT THE PLACE, YOU SEE? IT WAS ALWAYS ABOUT THE PEOPLE.

AND IF THAT MEANS I HAVE TO GIVE MYSELF UP...

...THAT'S A CHOICE I'M WILLING TO MAKE.

NOT JUST YET, CAT.

ALLEYTOWN'S NOT READY TO GIVE YOU UP JUST YET.

K-K RR RRS SHH

GHOST-MAKER

AND SO, CLAWS BARED AND TEETH GRITTED, ONCE MORE INTO THE FRAY, I DIVE.

AND IN THAT MOMENT, I FEEL FREE.

NO MATTER HOW THIS ALL ENDS, I FEEL THAT I HAVE GRASPED AT SOME MANNER OF WEIGHTLESSNESS.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF BEING CAUGHT. I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY ANYMORE.

I'M NOT AFRAID TO CARE AND I AM NOT AFRAID TO LOSE.

I AM UNAFRAID.

John Paul Leon
Street
I CAME TO THIS TOWN LOOKING TO PROVE TO EVERYONE ELSE WHO THE CATWOMAN REALLY WAS.

MAYBE I WAS JUST TRYING TO FIND OUT FOR MYSELF.

I DON'T FEAR FOR THIS TOWN. IT WILL BE FINE.

ITS PEOPLE AND ITS HEROES ARE MORE RESILIENT THAN THEY'RE GIVEN CREDIT FOR.

I AM NOT AFRAID FOR MY FRIENDS. THEY WILL GET THROUGH THIS AND COME OUT THE OTHER END, MADE WHOLE.
I'M NOT AFRAID OF GOODBYES BECAUSE I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
AND I AM NOT AFRAID TO GRIEVE FOR THOSE I HAVE LOST.
NOT AFRAID TO HOPE THAT SOME SHALL BE FOUND AGAIN.

SO OFTEN, I'VE STOOD ON COLD ROOFTOPS WONDERING IF I MIGHT GET A SHADOW TO CHASE ME JUST SO I COULD STOP FEELING SO ALONE.

I'M NOT EVEN AFRAID OF THAT ANYMORE.

FEAR STATE 3: UNAFRAID

RAM V WRITER

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YANICK PAQUETTE & NATHAN FAIRBAIRN COVER

JENNY FRISON VARIANT COVER BEN MEARES ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JESSICA CHEN EDITOR BEN ABERNATHY GROUP EDITOR

NEXT: SEE YA LATER, ALLEYTOWN.

THE END WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

WORLD of KRYPTON

™ & © DC

Written by
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Art by
MICHAEL AVON OEMING

Covers by
MICO SUAYAN

DECEMBER
6 issues

INTERVIEW WITH
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

The creative team of writer Joshua Williamson and artist Jorge Molina join *Batman* with issue #118, the start of a four-part arc that brings the Dark Knight out of Gotham City—and face to face with a new villain named Abyss, poised to turn Batman's greatest strengths against him.

HOW DID IT FEEL WHEN YOU GOT THE CALL TO WRITE *BATMAN*?

When I got the call from DC to write the *Batman* ongoing series, it was super surreal. I've wanted to write Batman my whole life. I even have a Batman tattoo. The night I got the job, I watched the 1989 *Batman* movie, just to remind myself of why I love the character. I couldn't wait to immediately dive in.

WHY IS THIS A GREAT JUMPING-ON POINT?

I wanted to make sure that even if you haven't been reading the series, you could jump right into it. Coming out of the events of "Fear State," Batman has seen Gotham change and will actually leave the city for a bit. It's a new story and case that you can pick right up.

WHAT DOES JORGE MOLINA BRING TO THE STORY YOU ARE WRITING?

Jorge brings a calm horror intention to the art. I've been a fan of Jorge for a long time and recommended him years ago. Jorge has brought so much thoughtfulness and energy to Gotham and Batman.

HOW DOES THIS CONNECT TO WHAT JAMES TYNION IV HAS BUILT FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS ON *BATMAN*? WHAT NEW ELEMENTS ARE YOU BRINGING IN?

I wanted to make sure I would be honoring what James has been doing for the last two years. He really brought a lot of excitement with new characters, ideas, and toys. I wanted to keep that running and introduce new things and characters, like the new villain Abyss. For me, though, I wanted to get back into Bruce's head and make sure that everything is through his point of view.

CAN YOU TALK ABOUT ABYSS, AND WHAT THEY MEAN FOR BATMAN?

I've always found it interesting how Batman uses the darkness and shadows as a weapon. Then I started thinking, "What if someone could use that against him?" That's where we started developing Abyss. They are a character who can take the way Batman uses darkness, learn from it, and turn it against him.

DON'T MISS
BATMAN #118
ON SALE IN DECEMBER!

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"